

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 06386 300406Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REFS: A) STATE 170207; B) KABUL 6165

1. AT SOCIAL GATHERING AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE EVENING AUGUST 28, DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH REITERATED, VOLUNTARILY, GOA'S COMMITMENT TO EFFECTIVELY ATTACK NARCOTICS PROBLEM. HE SAID PRESIDENT DAID IS DEADLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS AND BELIEVED THAT INITIAL APPROACH HAS GOT TO BE ON ENFORCEMENT SIDE WHILE PLANNING FOR INCOME SUBSTITUTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MOVE AHEAD APACE.

2. ABDULLAH INDICATED THAT THE ANTE HAD BEEN UPPED FROM \$450 MILLION TO \$500 MILLION WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS. WHEN AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT \$500 MILLION WAS ALMOST EQUAL TO TOTAL U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN SINCE COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE, ABDULLAH IN WHAT WE BELIEVE WAS INEFFECTIVE DISSEMBLING ACT SAID, "OH, DID I SAY \$500 MILLION? I REALLY MEANT \$5 MILLION." AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS A MUCH MORE REASONABLE FIGURE AND CERTAINLY WITHIN THE BALLPARK OF OVERALL CONSIDERATIONS ASSUMING THAT CONSORTIUM WOULD BECOME OPERATIONAL. ABDULLAH SAID THAT AS MATTER OF FACT HE HAD THAT EVENING, PRIOR TO ATTENDING SOCIAL OCCASION, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 06386 300406Z

MET WITH UN NARCOTICS COORDINATOR DAVIS FOR SOME TIME AND

REVIEWED AFGHAN SITUATION AND PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT DAVIS HAD BEEN VERY MUCH IMPRESSED BY GOA'S SINCERITY AND ANXIOUSNESS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND CONSORTIUM PROGRAMS.

3. ON MORNING AUGUST 29 A/DCM CONTACTED DAVIS WHO CONFIRMED HIS MEETING WITH ABDULLAH. DAVIS SAID THAT THE \$450 MILLION OR \$500 MILLION FIGURE IS STILL THE ONE USED BY CURRENT REGIME, BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD LEARNED FROM ABDULLAH THAT THIS WAS IN TERMS OF TWENTY YEAR DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM. DAVIS SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD ABDULLAH THAT IF THIS WERE WHAT GOA WAS THINKING OF, IT WAS NOT ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE, ASSUMING GOA DID ITS FAIR SHARE. DAVIS SAID THAT MESSAGE FROM GOA WAS CLEAR THAT NUMBER ONE PRIORITY WAS ENFORCEMENT AND THAT HE WAS PREPARING ANALYSIS OF SWITCHING \$313,000 FUNDING UNDER UN PREPARATORY AGREEMENT TO ENFORCEMENT, WHILE AT SAME TIME FOLLOWING REITERATED INTEREST BY PRESIDENT DAUD AND OTHER GOA OFFICIALS FOR "DETAILED PLANNING" ON INCOME SUBSTITUTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN BADAQSHAN AND NANGAHAR.

4. DAVIS SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SHIFT HIS VIEWS TO AN EARLY SIGNING OF PREPARATORY AGREEMENT SINCE CHARACTER OF THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE SHIFTING. DAVIS EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ABDULLAH AND OTHER GOA OFFICIALS WERE ANXIOUS AND PREPARED TO SEEK OUT AND WORK WITH IBRD FOR FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS. (COMMENT: THIS IF FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DAVIS' LACK OF FULL AWARENESS GOA OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. WHEN A/DCM POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT FUNDING FOR VIABLE DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS NOT ONLY WAS AVAILABLE FROM IBRD, BUT WAS SOUGHT BY BOTH THIS REGIME AND PREVIOUS, DAVIS EXPRESSED SURPRISE. SEVERAL OF IBRD PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY OR IN FINAL STAGES OF OPERATIONAL PLANNING WERE MENTIONED AND DAVIS REVEALED FURTHER HIS MISUNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION HERE.) IN RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION BY A/DCM THAT GOA WOULD HAVE TO MOVE EFFECTIVELY IN HELMAND VALLEY TO ELIMINATE POPPY PRODUCTION AS A DEMONSTRATION OF ITS EARNESTNESS DAVIS OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BE DONE IF USG WOULD PROVIDE FINDING TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE FOR GOA.

5. IN LIGHT DAVIS' VIEW THAT CHARACTER OF PREPARATORY AGREEMENT REQUIRES REVISION, WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 06386 300406Z

MODIFY CURRENT VERSION OF AGREEMENT AS INDICATED REF A. FRANKLY, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT DAVIS IS DELIGHTED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DELAY COMING TO GRIPS WITH OPERATIONAL PROGRAM, IN CLASSIC UN FASHION. IT CLEAR THAT DAVIS KNOWS HIS BUSINESS IN UN TERMS, BUT HE WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE EDUCATION WITH REGARD TO TOTAL SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN.
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